CHAPTER
1
ORIGINAL STORY
Fummy
ART
Yuna Kagesaki
THE WITCH'S HOUSE
The Diary of Ellen

ゴオオオオオ
(RUMBLE)
HEF...
HEF...
HEF...
.....
PAPA
パパァ...
PAPA
パパァ...
PAPA
パパァ!
MY DIARY...
I....
...CAN REMEMBER EVERYTHING...
...AS IF IT HAPPENED YESTERDAY.
AHH....
I THINK...
...THERE WAS A TIME I WAS LYING IN A FREEZING ROOM JUST LIKE THIS.
THIS ROOM...
...IS SO COLD AND DARK.

...THE BEGINNING OF THAT DIARY...
...THAT I NEVER WROTE—
I KNOW...
...ALL TOO WELL...

...PLAYED WITH ME.
...SO NO ONE...
I WAS SICK
ヒ
ヒッ
ヒッヒッ

キィ…
KII (CREAK)
ELLEN?
DID YOU SEE SOME-THING?
A CAT...

A CAT, BLACK ALL OVER. AND HE...
...HAD A MOUSE.
I SEE.
LET'S GET YOUR BANDAGES CHANGED.
OH.
YOUR RIB-BON'S SLIP-PING.
I KNOW IT'S HARD, NOT BEING ABLE TO PLAY OUTSIDE.
I'M SORRY.

I WAS BORN SICK.
SHU CFWGHD
... PLAY-ING IN-SIDE.
THAT'S OKAY. I ALSO LIKE...
...AND HOW THE GRASS SMELLS LIKE IT DOES.
...I KNEW HOW BLUE THE SKY IS...
I COULDN'T SEE THE SKY FROM THIS WINDOW, BUT...
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS ALWAYS STUCK IN THIS DARK, OLD ROOM.
BECAUSE THERE WAS NO PROPER DOCTOR AROUND, AND WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD MONEY TO PAY ANYWAY.
NOBODY KNEW WHY.
AND THERE WAS NO CURE.
OF COURSE THERE WASN'T.
WALKING ALSO HURT. SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY JOINTS.
BUT...
...SINCE I WAS BORN, I'D HAD RASHES ALL OVER MY FACE AND LEGS.

THIS CHILD'S AILMENT IS RETRIBUTION FOR HER ANCESTORS' WICKED DEEDS.
SHE WILL SUFFER FOR ALL ETERNITY.
DID YOU HAVE FUN?
DID MOMMY'S TOUCH ALWAYS FEEL SO ROUGH?
.....
BECAUSE OF HOW I WAS...
...I JUST KNEW THAT MOTHER WAS GOING TO ABANDON ME SOMEDAY.
I COULD FEEL THAT IN MY HEART.

NO.
I DON'T WANNA BE ABANDONED.
...BECAUSE THE THOUGHT OF LOSING MOTHER WAS FAR SCARIER THAN NOT BEING ABLE TO GO OUTSIDE ANYMORE.
BY [illegible] SEVEN, I WAS [illegible] A PRISONER.
STARTING THE VERY NEXT DAY, I STOPPED PLAYING OUTSIDE...

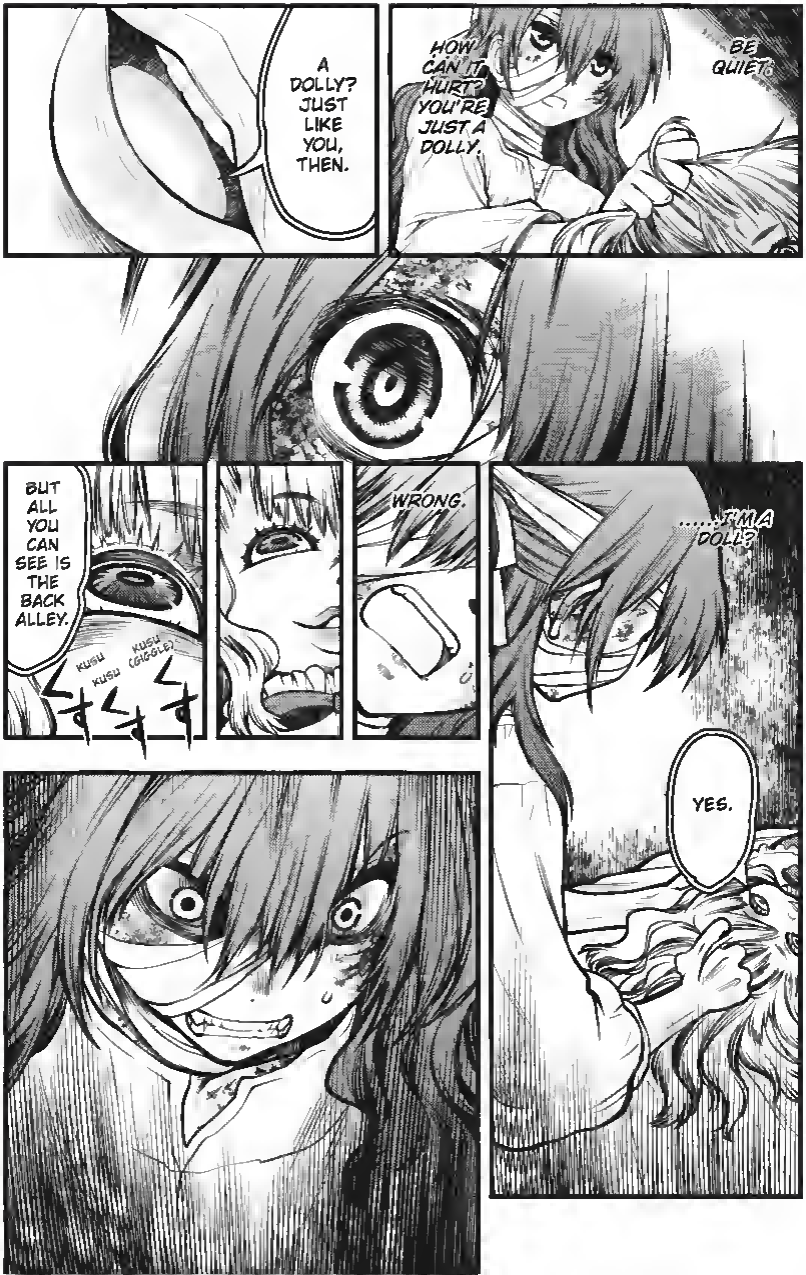
MY DARLING ELLEN.
ALL FIXED.
THERE.
MOTHER ABANDONING ME WOULD HAVE BEEN AS GOOD AS A DEATH SENTENCE.
BECAUSE MOTHER WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD EVER LOVE ME.
THAT'S LIFE IN THE SLUMS.
EVERYONE'S IN A DESPERATE STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL.
DESPERATELY CLINGING TO SOMETHING IN ORDER TO STAY AFLOAT. MOTHER'S LOVE WAS WHAT I CLUNG TO.

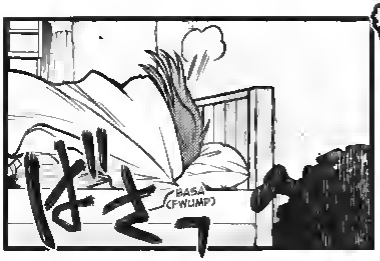
DAMMIT.
THOSE BASTARDS.
BAN (SLAM)
BIKU (JOLT)
ビクッ!!
THE BASTARDS KNOW WE AIN'T GOT ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO FOR WORK.
SO THEY ARE SKINNING US ALIVE.
GA (GRAB)
WHAT HAPPENED, DEAR?
WAGES ARE DROPPING AGAIN.
ZUKA
ZUKA
ZUKA (STOMP)
WHAT DOES THE UNION SAY?
NOTHING HELPFUL.
SHIT.
FATHER...
...COULD NEVER LOOK AT ME.
HE TREATED ME LIKE I WASN'T EVEN THERE.

HE GOES TO WORK EVERY DAY FOR YOU.
OF COURSE HE DOESN'T.
DOES FATHER HATE ME?
SO WHY DOESN'T HE EVER TALK TO ME?
.....I'M SURE HE'S JUST SHY.
GUI GAINKO
AH.

GACHARI (CLICK)
ガチャリ
TAN! (SLAM)
THEY WOULD ALWAYS CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION AWAY FROM MY PRYING EYES.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS THEY WERE DOING.
BUT IT WAS PROBABLY SOMETHING THAT MEN AND WOMEN JUST HAVE TO DO TO CONNECT.
I COULD FEEL THAT MUCH.

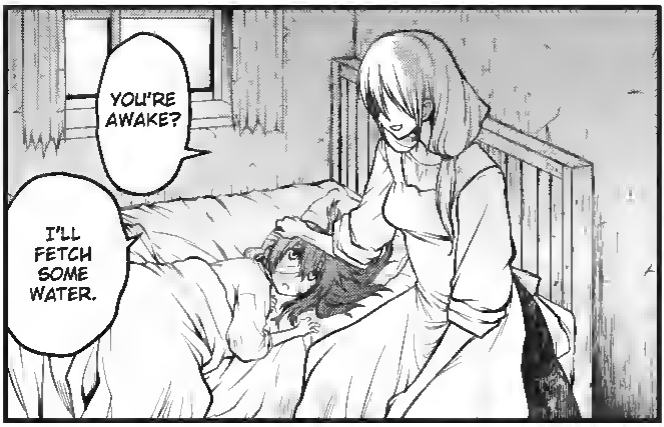
I COULD NEVER FIND A DOLL WITH THE SAME HAIR AS ME.
BUT MINE HAD CLOTHES THE COLOR OF MY HAIR.
PURPLE HAIR, LIKE FATHER'S.
I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED BROWN, LIKE MOTHER'S.
BECAUSE, IF I'D LOOKED MORE LIKE MOTHER..!
MAYBE FATHER WOULD HAVE WANTED TO LOOK AT ME.
GUSHA (HUGG)
GUSHA
THAT HURTS.

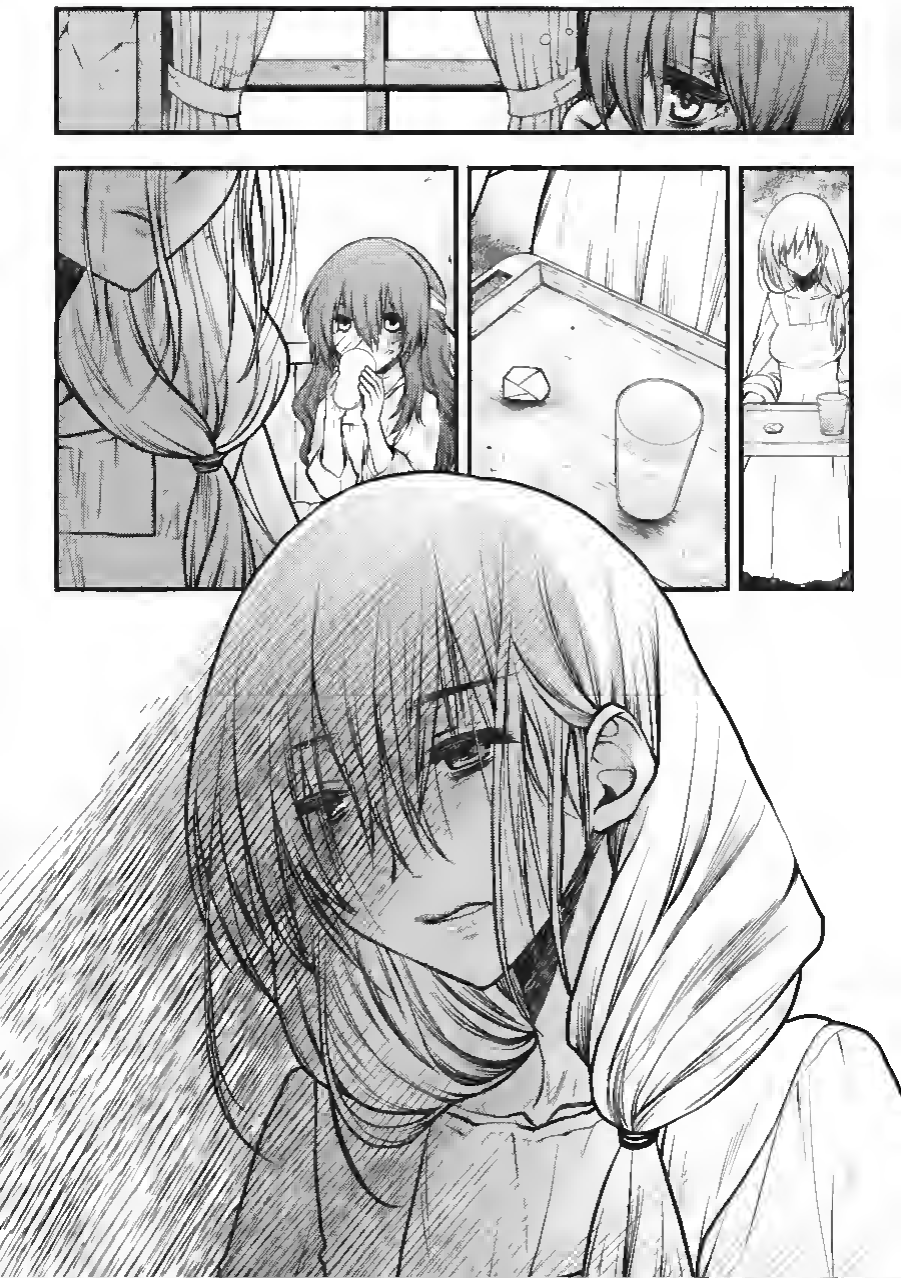

A DOLLY? JUST LIKE YOU, THEN.
HOW CAN IT HURT? YOU'RE JUST A DOLLY.
BE QUIET.
BUT ALL YOU CAN SEE IS THE BACK ALLEY.
KUSU KUSU
KUSU (GIGGLE)
WRONG.
.....I'M A DOLL?
YES.


ばさ
BASA (FWUMP)

BAMU (WHAM)
ばふ

KUSU (GIGGLE)
KUSU
KUSU
くす
くす


YOU'RE AWAKE?
I'LL FETCH SOME WATER.



I WANT SO BADLY TO CRY NOW.
THE FEELING BURNING IN MY HEART.
THIS PERSON...
SHE'S ALIVE.
.....
MOMMY.
KYU (SQUEEZE)
きゅっ

...WHO ALWAYS GOT LOVE FROM FATHER, LOVE THAT HE NEVER GIVES ME.
TOWARD MOTHER, WHO SHOWED ME WHAT REAL LOVE MEANS...
GYUU (GRAB)
IT WAS HA-TRED.
HOW?
WHEN SHE'S SO CRUEL TO ME.
WHEN SHE LOVES ME SO...
...HOW CAN I...
...HATE HER, LIKE THAT?
I'M ELLEN.
AND MY MOMMY LOVES ME.
ISN'T THAT GOOD ENOUGH?
SURE ABOUT THAT?
KUSU (GIGGLE)
クス
KUSU
クス

SOMETHING FELT OFF THAT EVENING.
?
IS THAT...?
BA (WHIP)
IT HURTS
ITAKU (THOSE)
.....!
GAKU (STUMBLE)
BUT...
YORO (WOBBLE)
...NOT SO BAD I CAN'T WALK.

SHE GOT RID OF THEM, I GUESS.
MY SHOES...
...ARE GONE...?
?
DID SHE THINK I'D NEVER HAVE A REASON TO LEAVE THIS PLACE?
RAN (SLAM)
.....
THE LITTLE BLACK CAT'S BODY.
LIKE I THOUGHT.
YORO
YORO

FOR A PROUD CREATURE LIKE THAT...
...TO MEET SUCH AN UGLY END...
GYAA
GYAA (SCARY)
BASHA (SPLASH)

WHAT DOES THIS REMIND ME OF?
SO STIFF.
LIKE HE'S JUST A THING.
AN OBJECT.
I'LL RETURN HIM TO THE EARTH.
I THINK THERE'S A PARK NEARBY WITH DIRT.
ZUKIN
ZUKIN (THROB)
ズキン
ズキン

THE DISEASE NEVER REALLY AFFECTED MY ARMS.
ZAKU
ZAKU (CRUNCH)
HAA
HAA (PANT)
HAA
HAA
MY ARMS ARE FREE.
ZA
ZA (GHF)
MY ARMS ARE FREE.

NOW...
...THE BLACK CAT CAN RETURN TO THE EARTH PROPERLY.
(GASP)
DORO (MUDD?)

WASH MY HANDS AND FEET...
I HAVE TO GET CHANGED BEFORE MOTHER GETS HOME.
I CAN'T BE A CHILD WHO CAUSES ANY TROUBLE OR STEPS OUT OF LINE.
ズキン
(ZUKIN (THROB))
ZUKIN
I FORGOT I'M S'POSED TO BE A PRISONER.
STUCK IN THAT BED, SO MOTHER WILL KEEP LOVING ME.
WHAT WOULD MOTHER THINK, SEEING ME LIKE THIS?
OH NO.
ZO (SHUDDER)
...GET CHANG-ED...
...AND PUT ON...
...NEW BANDA-GES...

...ELLEN...
BUT SOMETIMES...
...MOMMY GETS SWEETS...
...AND...
...WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
LEAVES WORK EARLY
CAT?
...BURY THE CAT...
I...
I HAD TO...
BUT...
WHY TODAY?
GUNJAAA (WARP)
TODAY?...
...OF ALL DAYS.
あ
あ
SO I BURIED HIM IN THE GROUND.
YEAH.
HE... HE WAS DEAD.
THE BLACK CAT.
I...
I'M SORRY.
I...
...CAN WALK.
B-BUT LOOK.
SORRY FOR GOING OUTSIDE ON MY OWN.
IT HURTS BUT...
...NOT SO BAD I COULDN'T DO IT.

...WITH ALL SORTS OF THINGS ...
I... I CAN HELP OUT...
THE CAT...
I CAN WALK ON MY OWN.
S-SO THAT MEANS...
WHY'D HE HAVE TO DIE TODAY?
WHY?
I COULD SEE HIM?

I REALIZED...
...I HAD DONE SOMETHING THAT COULDN'T BE UNDONE.
AS IF TO PROVE JUST HOW [illegible] I WAS...
...MOTHER LEFT HOME FOR GOOD.
NO LET- [illegible] LEFT BE- [illegible]...
WITH- OUT [illegible] ...

WHEN THE PEOPLE FROM MOTHER'S JOB CAME KNOCKING, FATHER ROARED, SPAT, AND WEPT, AT A TOTAL LOSS FOR WORDS.
FATHER WAS MORE DERANGED BY MOTHER'S ABSENCE THAN ME, EVEN.
AND I...
おお
うお

IT WASN'T EXACTLY GRIEF THAT GRIPPED ME.
RATHER, IT WAS AS IF A PIECE OF MY VERY BODY HAD BEEN CARTED OFF...
... LEAVING A GAPING VOID WITHIN ME.

.....
FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS, I BROODED OVER IT AND BEGAN TO THINK.
...MOTHER WAS JUST TIRED OF IT ALL?
MAYBE...
A [illegible] AS "DE-SPAIR."
...AND COME RUNNING BACK.
...SHE MIGHT THINK ABOUT ME AND FATHER, LEFT BEHIND AT HOME...
ONCE SHE GOT THAT REST...
MAYBE LIFE WITH ME WAS JUST [illegible] SHE [illegible] A SHORT BREAK?

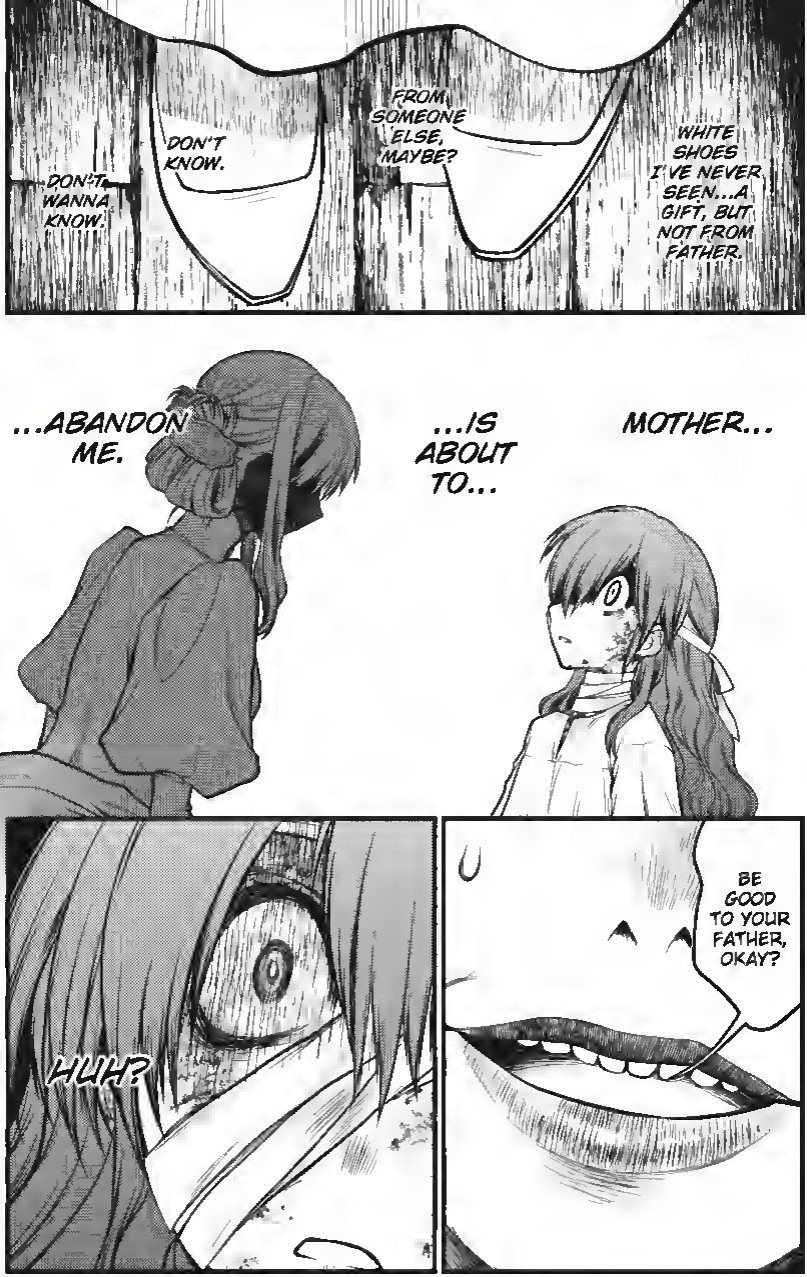
AND I WOULD BE THE LEAST TROUBLE-SOME CHILD THERE EVER WAS, IF ONLY SHE WOULD.
GI (CREAK)
OF COURSE SHE WOULD.
I WAS SURE MOTHER WOULD RETURN.
YES.
HE NEVER SPOKE A WORD TO ME, AS USUAL.
AS FOR FATHER...
WHILE I OBSESSED OVER THE NOTION OF MOTHER'S RETURN...
KOTO (CLACK)
KOTO
KOTO

...FATHER LOCKED HIMSELF IN HIS ROOM.
MY MEDICINE AND BANDAGES...
I DON'T WANNA THINK WHAT'LL HAPPEN...
WHEN THEY RUN OUT
KATAN (CLATTER)
カタン
KOTO コト...
DA (DASH)
COULD IT BE...?

MOMMY...?

ARE YOU.....
...GOING SOMEWHERE?

ELLEN...
I'M SORRY, ELLEN...
SORRY?


DON'T WANNA KNOW.
DON'T KNOW.
FROM SOMEONE ELSE, MAYBE?
WHITE SHOES I'VE NEVER SEEN...A GIFT, BUT NOT FROM FATHER.
...ABANDON ME.
...IS ABOUT TO...
MOTHER...
HUH?
BE GOOD TO YOUR FATHER, OKAY?

WHEN SHE'S LOVED SO MUCH, WANTED SO MUCH...
DOES...
...DOES IT NOT MATTER TO HER?
...FATHER AND I WILL GET ALONE.
AND...
...IS SHE GIVING UP...
...ON LOVING ME?
AND HOW MUCH HE DOES NOT LOVE ME?
DOES SHE NOT GET HOW MUCH FATHER LOVES HER?
WHAT'S SHE EVEN TALKING ABOUT?
THIS LADY...
FATHER ONLY EVER LOOKS AT MOTHER.

ELLEN.
BE GOOD.
MOMMY.
?

...I DON'T NEED YOU!
IF YOU WON'T LOVE ME...
HAA
はあ
HAA (PANT)
はあ、

I DIDN'T SEE HER AS MY MOTHER...
...BUT AS ANOTHER WOMAN TO ENVY. I ENVIED HER FOR FATHER'S LOVE.
I WOULD HAVE KEPT LOVING HER...
IF SHE HAD KEPT LOVING ME, MY HATRED COULD HAVE BEEN CONTAINED...
THAT'S WHEN I ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT I HATED HER.
OH, RIGHT.
SIKU
SIKU
SIKU
THE MAN WHO GAVE HER THOSE SHOES...
I'LL HAVE TO TELL HIM, "SHE CAN'T GO WITH YOU ANYMORE."
DIRTY.
SIKU
SIKU
(TWITCH)

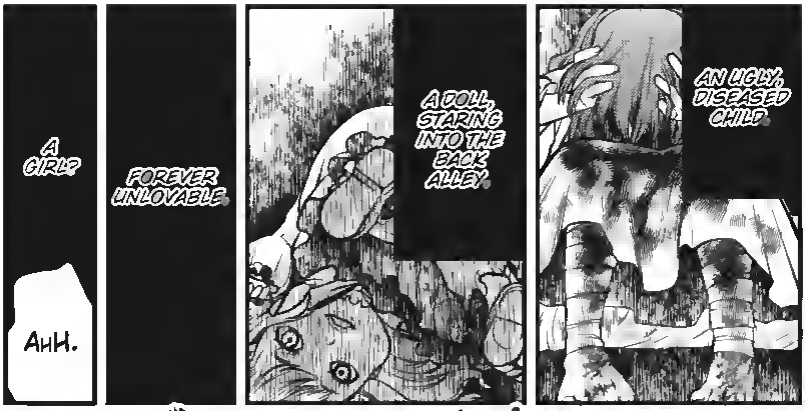
カラン
KATAN CLATTERED

I DID THIS.
...DADDY.
I'M THE ONE WHO DID IT...
"DADDY."
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I CALLED HIM THAT.
AAH!
AAH!

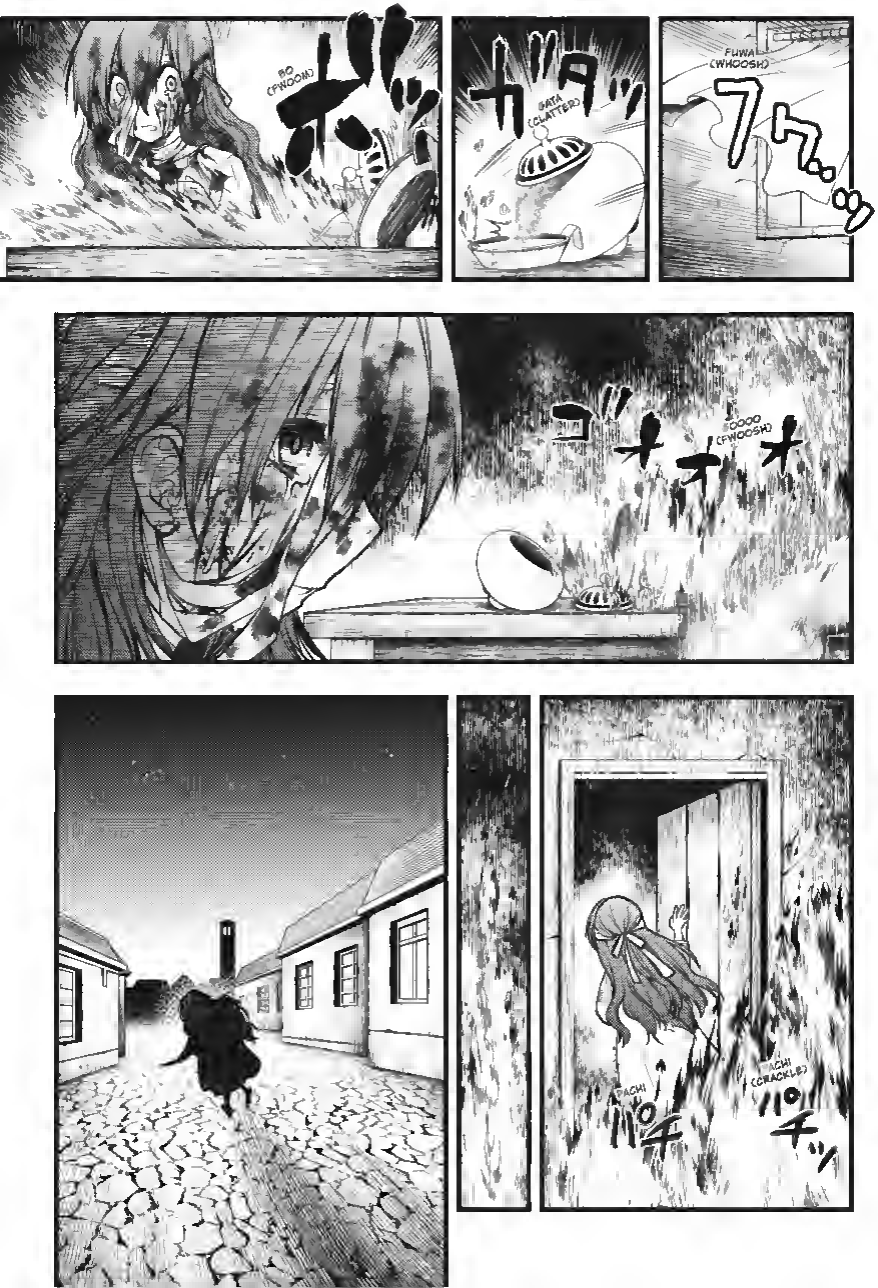
I DID THIS!
(PANT)
I...
DADDY.
STOP.
DON'T SHOW ME.
STOP IT.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE PROOF THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO LOVE ME.
I CAN'T.
WHY HER? WHY THAT...?
WHY WON'T YOU LOOK AT ME?
WHY IS IT?
WHY?

STOP!!!

AHHH.
BUT, NOBODY...
I JUST WANTED TO BE LOVED.
...COULD LOVE ME.
WHY DID IT END LIKE THIS?
WHY?
I WANTED TO LOVE THEM.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
GARI
GARI
AND MOTHER TRIED TO ABANDON ME.
FATHER COULD NEVER LOOK AT ME.
BECAUSE I'M SICK?
WHY NOT?
GAR SCRATCH
UGHHH.


A GIRL?
AHH.
FOREVER UNLOVABLE.
A DOLL, STARING INTO THE BACK ALLEY.
AN UGLY, DISEASED CHILD.

AAAAHHHH!


BO (PNOOM)
GATA (CLATTER)
FUWA (WHOOSH)
GOOOO (FWOOSH)
PACHI
ICHI (CRACKLE)

ドン
DO (THUD)
カツ
GA (THUD)
WHAT HAPPENS TO ME NOW?

WHEN THAT HAPPENS...
MY BODY WILL JUST SHUT DOWN BEFORE LONG.
AND SPEND MY NIGHTS TOO HUNGRY TO SLEEP.
I'LL SHIVER IN THE COLD.
...GUIDE ME TO MY RESTING PLACE IN THE EARTH?
...WILL A PAIR OF KIND HANDS...

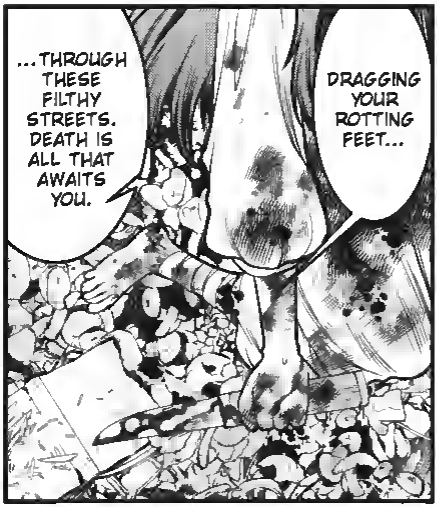
HIYA.
THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER DID ABANDONED ME IN THE END.
NO ONE WILL REACH OUT AND LEND ME A HAND.
WHO'LL BE LOOKING DOWN ON ME?
WHO EVEN KNOWS ME?
DOWN HERE, ELLEN.

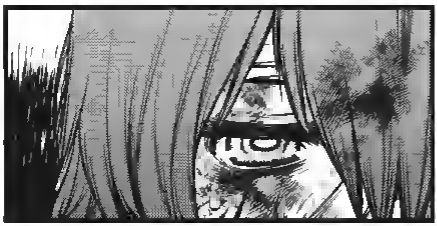
I.....
...GAVE YOU... SOMETHING TO EAT?
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO DIE FROM HUNGER, YOU KNOW.
YOU SAVED ME.
A PAIR OF DELICIOUS SOULS.
YUP!

AH.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
HUMANS ARE MADE UP OF A BODY AND A SOUL.
NO WAY TO EAT A SOUL WHEN A PERSON'S STILL ALIVE, BUT...
...ONCE THEY'RE DEAD AND GONE, THE SOUL POPS OUT AND MAKES FOR A TASTY TREAT.
I CAN'T MAKE IT HAPPEN MYSELF, THOUGH.
SOMEONE HAS TO KILL 'EM IF I WANNA EAT.
LUCKILY, YOU WERE AROUND TO DO THAT KILLING TODAY, BUT...
...NOT SURE WHAT I WOULD'VE DONE WITHOUT YOU...
...HEY, ELLEN.
WHAT'S WRONG?

SURE DID.
YUP.
...SO YOU ATE MY DADDY UP?
YOU MIGHT THINK IT'S SELFISH THAT WE DO WHAT-EVER WE WANT WITH THESE THINGS YOU HAVE NO CONTROL OVER...
...ELLEN.
WHAT GOOD DID MY EATING THEM DO FOR YOU?
...BUT EVEN IF I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T EAT THEM, THERE'D BE NO WAY TO PROVE IT, RIGHT?
AND SO...
...I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU MY THANKS.
?

WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE SOME OF THE MAGIC I'VE BEEN SAVING, ELLEN.
.....
SO WE CAN GRANT YOU MAGIC AS A SHOW OF THANKS.
DEMONS LIKE ME HAVE CHILDREN LIKE YOU TO THANK FOR THESE SOULS.
I'M GIVING YOU A HOUSE, ELLEN.


...THROUGH THESE FILTHY STREETS. DEATH IS ALL THAT AWAITS YOU.
DRAGGING YOUR ROTTING FEET...



AND YOU CAN'T GO ON LIVING LIKE THIS.
YOU HAVE NO HOME TO GO BACK TO, RIGHT?

A HOUSE?

AND I'D HATE TO SEE YOU END UP THAT WAY.
THAT ...
... SOUNDS POSI-TIVELY BORING, DOESN'T IT?

SO COME WITH ME NOW.
I WELCOME YOU.

FIRE !!!
ボロ (CRUMBLE)
ゴオオオ (GOOOO (WOOSH))
I...
...HATE THE COLD.
...WHAT DO YOU THINK?
KOKUN (NOD)
コクン...

TO BE CONTINUED IN *THE WITCH'S HOUSE* CHAPTER 2...!

The Witch's House
The Diary of Ellen

CHAPTER 1

ORIGINAL STORY: Fummy

ART: Yuna Kagesaki

TRANSLATION: CALEB COOK
LETTERING: ROCHELLE GANCIO

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